

--20. The rotary electric machine according to claim 18, wherein the second opening is located on a bottom region of the brush assembly when it is installed for usage, and wherein the first opening is distanced from the second opening in a circumferential direction.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 10 are amended and claims 18-20 are added. No new matter is added. The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicants request all further communication from the Patent Office be forwarded to Oliff & Berridge, PLC, in accordance with the Notice Regarding Power of Attorney mailed on April 25, 2002.

Although the Detailed Action acknowledges receipt of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. §119, Applicants respectfully request the acknowledgment also being made on the Office Action Summary forwarded with the next Office Action.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the personal interview conducted on February 27, 2003. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,424,600 to Ishikawa et al. (Ishikawa). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants assert that Ishikawa does not disclose each and every feature recited in claims 1-17. For example, as discussed during the personal interview, Ishikawa does not disclose a rotary electric machine, comprising a brush assembly that supports the brush and provides a slip ring cavity that encloses the slip ring, wherein the brush assembly defines a first passage communicating with an inside and an outside of the slip ring cavity for discharging air from the slip ring cavity, the first passage having a first opening that opens in

an axial direction of the shaft, and wherein the brush assembly defines a second passage communicating with the inside and the outside of the slip ring cavity for discharging air from the slip ring cavity, the second passage having a second opening that opens in a radial direction of the shaft and is located on a different location from the first opening.

Although Ishikawa discloses a brush assembly 7 having two passages, Ishikawa merely discloses a single inlet passage 6/62/63 and a single outlet passage 8/82. However, Ishikawa does not disclose a plurality of outlet passages, i.e., a first passage and a second passage for discharging air from the slip ring cavity.

Furthermore, as discussed during the interview, the passages disclosed in Ishikawa are clearly an inlet and an outlet passage respectively, (see for example, Figs. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9). The passages disclosed in Ishikawa each open in an axial direction of the shaft (see for example, Figs. 2, 4, 5, 6, and 9). The inlet passage 6/62/63 and the outlet passage 8/82 are located on opposite axial ends of the shaft. Thus, there is no disclosure in Ishikawa of a first passage having a first opening that opens in an axial direction of the shaft and the second passage having a second opening that opens in a radial direction of the shaft and is located on a different location from the first opening. As such, Ishikawa fails to disclose two independent air discharging passages. Accordingly, Applicants assert that Ishikawa does not disclose each and every feature recited in rejected claims 1-17. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 18-20 recite a brush assembly that supports the brush and provides a slip ring cavity that encloses the slip ring, wherein the brush assembly defines a first passage communicating with an inside and an outside of the slip ring cavity, the first passage having a first opening that opens in an axial direction of the shaft, and wherein the brush assembly defines a second passage communicating with the inside and the outside of the slip ring cavity, the second passage having a second opening that opens in a radial direction of the

shaft and is located on a different location from the first opening and wherein the first passage and the second passage communicate with the slip ring cavity at one axial end thereof. Thus, Ishikawa does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 18-20.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application is requested. It is submitted that the claims as presented herein patentably distinguish over the applied reference and fully meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:  
Appendix

Date: February 28, 2003

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## APPENDIX

## Changes to Claims:

Claims 18-20 are added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Amended) A rotary electric machine, comprising:
  - a slip ring disposed on a shaft of a rotor;
  - a brush that contacts the slip ring; and
  - a brush assembly that supports the brush and provides a slip ring cavity that encloses the slip ring, wherein the brush assembly defines a first passage communicating with an inside and an outside of the slip ring cavity for discharging air from the slip ring cavity, the first passage having a first opening that opens in an axial direction of the shaft, and wherein the brush assembly defines a second passage communicating with the inside and the outside of the slip ring cavity for discharging air from the slip ring cavity, the second passage having a second opening that opens in a radial direction of the shaft and is located on a different location from the first opening.
9. (Amended) The rotary electric machine according to claim 8, wherein the rear cover defines a third passage communicating ~~between-with~~ the inside and the outside of the slip ring cavity.
10. (Amended) The rotary electric machine according to claim 1, wherein the brush assembly further defines a third passage communicating ~~between-with~~ the inside and the outside of the slip ring cavity, and further comprising a fan that induces cooling air flow from the third passage to the first and second passages through the slip ring cavity.